

Sec. 27-2. Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Code enforcement officer means any person contracted with or employed by a state, county, or municipality who has enforcement authority for health, safety, or welfare requirements and is authorized to issue citations or file formal complaints regarding the same, per O.C.G.A. § 36-74-21(1).

Commercial cryptocurrency mining means the commercial process by which cryptocurrency transactions are verified and added to the public ledger, known as the block chain, and also the means through which new units of cryptocurrencies are released through the use of server farms. Any equipment requiring a high density load service, for the purposes of operating a cryptocurrency mining server farm, will constitute a commercial cryptocurrency mining operation,

Data center means a facility or group of buildings primarily devoted to the housing, operation, and maintenance of computer servers, storage devices, and related equipment for the electronic storage, processing, management, and dissemination of data, including cloud computing, artificial intelligence training, and enterprise IT operations. This excludes cryptocurrency mining operations, residential-scale server installations, telecommunications facilities, or incidental data processing in non-data center uses such as offices or warehouses.

Sec. 27-3. Applicability

- (a) This chapter shall apply to all planned data centers as well as all data centers installed, constructed, or substantially modified (defined as an expansion increasing floor area by 50% or more) after the effective date of this chapter.
- (b) All data centers shall be designed, erected, and installed in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal codes, regulations, and standards, including Georgia's proposed DRI rules for technological facilities requiring disclosure of projected energy and water demands.
- (c) Data centers exceeding DRI thresholds (175,000 square feet in non-metropolitan areas) shall undergo state-level review coordinated with the Southern Georgia Regional Development Center. Such review may be delayed or postponed, as permitted by Georgia law, but must be completed, if applicable, before the issuance of any Certificate of Occupancy.
- (d) Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining operations are specifically prohibited in Irwin County.